

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER  
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT  
SITES:QHALLETT-SUBS  
CU/EE:SWISE-PHONE

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O 090030Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169765

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR SCUL BU

SUBJECT:THRACIAN EXHIBIT

1. HALLETT (SITES) ADVISED DEPARTMENT JULY 7 THAT NATIONAL GALLERY DIRECTOR CARTER BROWN HAS NOW GIVEN A FLAT DEFINITIVE NO TO POSSIBILITY THAT GALLERY MIGHT PRESENT THRACIAN GOLD EXHIBIT. REJECTION REPORTEDLY IS BASED UPON BROWN'S BELIEF THAT MATERIAL IS COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE FOR GALLERY. (OFFICIAL REASON BROWN WILL GIVE FOR NEGATIVE RESPONSE, IF ASKED, IS THAT METROPOLITAN MUSEUM IS BOOKED TO HAVE EXHIBIT FIRST.) SITES ALSO REPORTS THAT IT HAS EVERY INDICATION THAT CORCORAN GALLERY WILL ALSO MAKE NEGATIVE DECISION -- ALTHOUGH STRICTLY FOR SCHEDULING REASONS -- AS GALLERY IS SOLIDLY BOOKED THROUGH THE END OF 1978, SIX MONTHS PAST PERIOD FOR WHICH IT IS PRESENTLY AGREED SITES WOULD HAVE THRACIAN. HOWEVER, HALLETT INTENDS TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH GALLERY DIRECTOR ROY SLADE IMMEDIATELY ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE GALLERY'S POSITION.

2. IN VIEW OF PROBABILITY THAT SITES, THEREFORE, WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET GOB'S REQUIREMENT FOR BOOKINGS AT BOTH METROPOLITAN MUSEUM AND IN WASHINGTON (AT EITHER CORCORAN OR NATIONAL) DURING JULY 1977 - JULY 1978 PERIOD, WE ADVISED

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HALLETT TO SO NOTIFY AMBASSADOR POPOV BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE

FOR SOFIA. HOWEVER, SHE HAS SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO REACH HIM OR EMBASSY CULTURAL OFFICER. IN VIEW OF SITUATION DESCRIBED IN PARA 1, SITES WISHES TO HAVE GOB DECISION AS TO WHETHER IT WISHES TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH SITES TO EITHER (A) PLACE EXHIBIT IN METROPOLITAN MUSEUM AND IN OTHER INTERESTED MUSEUMS OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON, OR (B) ATTEMPT TO PLACE EXHIBIT IN CORCORAN AND IN OTHER DESIRED MUSEUMS AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE DATE (PROBABLY 1979 FOR CORCORAN). BULGARIANS OTHER OPTIONS TO WORKING WITH SITES ARE TO ATTEMPT TO PLACE EXHIBIT DIRECTLY WITH MUSEUMS, OR THROUGH A PRIVATE REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S. FYI- SITES INFORMS US THAT, EVEN IF IT PROVED POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE, KENNEDY CENTER PRESENTATION OF EXHIBIT WOULD BE PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE FOR USG TO FUND.END FYI

3. IT APPEARS THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SITES TO INFORM AMBASSADOR POPOV OF THE ABOVE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES. (WE UNDERSTAND HE IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN SOFIA ON MORNING OF JULY 9.) WE BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE THAT POPOV HAVE LATEST INFORMATION BEFORE HE MEETS WITH FOL. THEREFORE REQUEST THAT AMBASSADOR ATTEMPT TO CONTACT POPOV ASAP AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AND ADVISE HIM. KISSINGER

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